

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 8, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 639**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Liu**

February 19, 2003

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~~An act to add Article 5.5 (commencing with Section 52400) to Chapter 9 of Part 28 of the Education Code, relating to public schools. An act to add Sections 52302.6 and 54698 to the Education Code, relating to career technical education.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 639, as amended, Liu. ~~Regional career technical high schools~~ *occupational centers and programs: partnership academies.*

Existing law provides for the establishment of various programs for vocational and career technical education in the public schools, *including regional occupational centers and programs. A regional occupational center or program is required to provide, among other things, a curriculum that includes skill training in occupational fields having current and future needs for the training, provide an opportunity for pupils to acquire entry level career technical skills, and provide for the upgrading of career technical skills and retraining where necessary.*

*Existing law authorizes school districts to operate partnership academies and provides grants for that purpose. To be eligible for partnership academy funding, existing law requires, among other things, that a school district provide an assurance that the academy will be established as a "school within a school" and that each academy pupil will receive instruction in at least 3 academic subjects each school term, a laboratory class related to the academy's occupational field, a*

mentor; and, during the summer following the 11th grade, an internship or paid job related to the academy's occupational field or work experience to improve employment skills.

*This bill would authorize a regional occupational center or program to plan, establish, and maintain a partnership academy and to offer academic courses as part of its partnership academy. Existing law authorizes any business, trade or professional association, union, or state or local government agency to establish and operate a career preparatory program under the auspices of the local school district, and authorizes any pupil who has successfully completed his or her education through grade 10, with the written consent of his or her parent or guardian, to choose to follow either a traditional college preparatory curriculum or the career preparatory program established pursuant to these provisions.*

*This bill would establish a pilot program to allow the establishment of regional career technical high schools as comprehensive high schools, in the same manner as regional occupational centers, as prescribed. The bill would establish funding criteria, would provide for termination of pilot program high schools that do not meet performance targets, and would require the State Department of Education to report its findings and recommendations regarding the implementation of the pilot program by August 1, 2006. The bill would require the State Department of Education, exclusively using available federal funds identified by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, to administer the program and to provide technical assistance to high school districts, unified school districts, county offices of education and regional occupational centers and programs forming regional career technical high schools.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 ~~SECTION 1. — Article 5.5 (commencing with Section 52400)~~
- 2 *SECTION 1. Section 52302.6 is added to the Education Code,*
- 3 *to read:*
- 4 *52302.6. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a*
- 5 *regional occupational center or program that maintains a*
- 6 *partnership academy pursuant to Article 5 (commencing with*

1 Section 54690) of Chapter 9 of Part 29 may offer academic courses  
2 as part of its partnership academy.

3 SEC. 2. Section 54698 is added to the Education Code, to  
4 read:

5 54698. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a  
6 regional occupational center or program may plan, establish, and  
7 maintain a partnership academy pursuant to this article.

8 (b) For purposes of this article, a regional occupational center  
9 or program is deemed to be a school district.

10 is added to Chapter 9 of Part 28 of the Education Code, to read:

11  
12 Article 5.5. ~~Regional Career Technical High Schools~~  
13

14 52400. ~~The Legislature finds and declares all of the~~  
15 ~~following:~~

16 (a) ~~As the economy has changed from a post-World War II~~  
17 ~~industrial-based economy to the modern high technology and~~  
18 ~~knowledge-based economy, there is a corresponding critical need~~  
19 ~~for high school pupils to acquire the academic and career skills~~  
20 ~~necessary for success within the new economy.~~

21 (b) ~~As the number and diversity of California's high school~~  
22 ~~pupil population continues to grow, there is an increasing need to~~  
23 ~~provide educational choices that allow pupils to prepare for higher~~  
24 ~~education and high-skill, high-wage careers.~~

25 (c) ~~As specified in Sections 51224 and 51228, the purpose of~~  
26 ~~California high schools are to provide courses of study that prepare~~  
27 ~~pupils for admission to higher education and for career and~~  
28 ~~technical education.~~

29 (d) ~~The State Department of Education may select up to 5~~  
30 ~~applicants to establish regional career technical high schools~~  
31 ~~pursuant to this pilot program. Regional Occupational Centers and~~  
32 ~~Programs (ROC/Ps) may make application to form a regional~~  
33 ~~career technical high school in collaboration with high school~~  
34 ~~districts, unified school districts, and county offices of education.~~  
35 ~~The applicant ROC/P shall submit to the State Department of~~  
36 ~~Education a cooperative services agreement between the ROC/P,~~  
37 ~~high school district, unified school district, and county office of~~  
38 ~~education, as specified in subdivision (b) of Section 52403.~~  
39 ~~Regional career technical high schools shall offer pupils who~~  
40 ~~choose to attend these high schools the opportunity to enroll in~~

1 ~~courses necessary to fulfill the requirements and prerequisites for~~  
2 ~~admission to California's public postsecondary institutions. All~~  
3 ~~pupils shall also have the opportunity to explore career choices,~~  
4 ~~seek appropriate instruction and training, and be prepared with~~  
5 ~~sufficient marketable skills to enter the world of work.~~

6 ~~(e) For over 30 years, ROC/Ps have provided high quality~~  
7 ~~occupational training and services to California's high school~~  
8 ~~pupils. Regionally located and locally governed, ROC/Ps have~~  
9 ~~provided pupils with technical skills training in a manner that is~~  
10 ~~flexible in meeting labor market demands, avoids unnecessary~~  
11 ~~duplication of courses and expensive equipment, and is~~  
12 ~~fundamentally linked to business and industry.~~

13 ~~52401. (a) The regional career technical high schools pilot~~  
14 ~~program shall offer pupils and parents the choice to enroll in a~~  
15 ~~program that provides training in technical careers integrated with~~  
16 ~~academic content.~~

17 ~~(b) Regional career technical high schools shall be a~~  
18 ~~comprehensive high school and shall conform to all of the~~  
19 ~~statutory requirements for comprehensive high schools. These~~  
20 ~~pilot program high schools shall offer a course of study that~~  
21 ~~prepares pupils for high school graduation, entry into~~  
22 ~~postsecondary education, and high-skilled and high-wage careers.~~

23 ~~(c) Regional career technical high schools shall enroll pupils~~  
24 ~~that reflect the economic, demographic, and pupil population~~  
25 ~~characteristics of all pupils within the county superintendent's~~  
26 ~~service region.~~

27 ~~52402. (a) Regional career technical high schools~~  
28 ~~established pursuant to this article shall conform to all of the~~  
29 ~~assessment and accountability provisions required of~~  
30 ~~comprehensive high schools.~~

31 ~~(b) Additional outcomes shall be reported to the~~  
32 ~~Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Legislature that~~  
33 ~~include the numbers of graduating pupils, the numbers of pupils~~  
34 ~~leaving the program prior to completion, the numbers of pupils~~  
35 ~~proceeding into postsecondary education or advanced training, the~~  
36 ~~numbers of pupils entering employment, and the level of career~~  
37 ~~preparation and industry-based certifications or licenses earned by~~  
38 ~~enrolled pupils.~~

39 ~~(c) Additional data elements, performance levels, and~~  
40 ~~procedures necessary to demonstrate the effectiveness of the~~

~~operation and performance of regional career technical high schools may be established by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.~~

~~(d) After three years of operation, pilot program regional career technical high schools not achieving a minimum Academic Performance Index score of five and not meeting other designated performance targets, may be terminated. The superintendent shall place on a one-year probationary extension a school not meeting these minimum performance standards and shall require the school to develop a reasonable plan for the school to improve to the minimum levels.~~

~~52403. (a) Regional career technical high schools shall be formed in the same manner as regional occupational centers as set forth in Article 1 (commencing with Section 52300) and shall be governed in the same manner as regional occupational centers.~~

~~(b) The applicant ROC/P shall enter into a cooperative services agreement with participating school districts and county offices of education that stipulates the formation, financing, operation, oversight, and dissolution, and that stipulates that facilities are available for this program.~~

~~(c) A schoolsite council shall be appointed by the governing board of the regional career technical high school in conformance with Section 52012, except that business and industry representatives shall constitute one-third of the membership. The schoolsite council shall annually review, comment on, and give recommendations on improving curriculum content and relevancy for all course pathways and sequences offered within the school, in an effort to validate that current or future labor needs exist for the career training programs. The council shall review courses and make recommendations to the governing board for discontinuing courses, and may offer advice and assistance to the school as specified in the cooperative services agreement.~~

~~(d) (1) Notwithstanding subdivision (d) of Section 46300, the average daily attendance of the pupils of a regional career technical high school shall be used to compute both the school district revenue limit apportionment pursuant to Section 42238 and the regional occupational center or program apportionment pursuant to Section 52335.2.~~

~~(2) The average daily attendance of the pupils of a regional career technical high school shall be based upon the attendance of~~

1 pupils for a minimum day as set forth in Section 52404. Hourly  
2 attendance accounting shall not be required for the computation of  
3 average daily attendance in a regional career technical high school.

4 ~~(e) The applicant ROC/P shall designate, through the~~  
5 ~~cooperative services agreement, the amount of ROC/P average~~  
6 ~~daily attendance to be allocated to the regional career technical~~  
7 ~~high school and that amount shall be within the ROC/P's funding~~  
8 ~~cap and shall not require additional or new funding.~~

9 ~~52404. The minimum day for regional career technical high~~  
10 ~~schools shall be 360 minutes, inclusive of ROC/P. For~~  
11 ~~apportionment purposes, the minimum day for pupils enrolled in~~  
12 ~~grades 9 and 10 shall be 240 minutes of instruction to meet~~  
13 ~~graduation requirements and 120 minutes of ROC/P. The~~  
14 ~~minimum day for pupils enrolled in grades 11 and 12 shall be 180~~  
15 ~~minutes of instruction to meet graduation requirements and 180~~  
16 ~~minutes of ROC/P. The minimum instructional school year shall~~  
17 ~~be 180 days consisting of 64,800 minutes. The governing board of~~  
18 ~~the regional career technical high schools may establish a~~  
19 ~~maximum of eight 240-minute days annually to hold schoolsite~~  
20 ~~council meetings, participate in career-related activities, or~~  
21 ~~conference with parents.~~

22 ~~52405. (a) A regional career technical high school develops~~  
23 ~~high quality instructional programs that improve pupil academic~~  
24 ~~and career performance. Therefore, teachers and administrators~~  
25 ~~shall be given maximum flexibility in designing and delivering~~  
26 ~~instruction. This flexibility may take the form of new, innovative,~~  
27 ~~and available instructional methodologies and techniques~~  
28 ~~including, but not limited to, career portfolios, alternative~~  
29 ~~assessment, competency-based and project-based instruction,~~  
30 ~~work-based opportunities, community classroom nonpaid~~  
31 ~~internships, paid cooperative education opportunities, job~~  
32 ~~shadowing, career awareness and exploration activities,~~  
33 ~~entrepreneurial options, career technical pupil organizations,~~  
34 ~~industry-sanctioned student certifications, tech prep articulated~~  
35 ~~programs, business and industry endorsed career technical~~  
36 ~~curriculum, certificates of mastery or achievement, career~~  
37 ~~technical guidance and counseling, and interdisciplinary and~~  
38 ~~integrated instructional activities.~~

39 ~~(b) Career and technical courses within the regional career~~  
40 ~~technical high schools shall follow the statutes guiding regional~~

~~occupational centers and programs instruction pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 52300).~~

~~(c) Regional career technical high schools shall develop academic programs that are integrated with career and technical coursework, which meet state content standards. Regional career technical high schools shall develop and maintain an Internet Web site detailing curriculum and instructional methods.~~

~~(d) Regional career technical high schools shall annually invite high school teachers and administrators, ROC/P teachers and administrators, and the public to their campuses in order to demonstrate the regional career technical high schools' curriculum and instructional methods.~~

~~52406. (a) Regional career technical high school pupils enrolled in grades 9 and 10 shall be eligible to participate in all ROC/P and career activities and courses.~~

~~(b) Full-time administrators and teachers in regional career technical high schools shall be required to work a minimum of 195 days to provide adequate time for intensive staff development and program planning.~~

~~(c) The governing board shall retain the right to discontinue courses or services that no longer meet labor market needs, are not consistent with the school's instructional program, or are habitually low performing. Teachers shall be given 120 days' written notice of the pending closure of the course, and their specific release date from service. In no case shall discontinuation of courses or services be used to avoid disciplinary actions or to deprive teachers of due process in those matters.~~

~~(d) Regional career technical high schools shall begin operation no sooner than the 2004-05 school year.~~

~~(e) (1) (A) The State Department of Education shall select and oversee an independent evaluator, responsible to and reporting to the State Department of Education, to conduct an independent study of the regional career technical high school program.~~

~~(B) At a minimum, the study required by this paragraph shall address, but not necessarily be limited to, each of the following issues:~~

~~(i) The academic achievement of pupils attending regional career technical high schools, as measured by grades and test scores.~~



~~(ii) The occupational preparation of pupils attending regional career technical high schools, compared to pupils in other regional occupational centers and programs.~~

~~(iii) The attitudes of pupils, parents of pupils, and teachers concerning regional career technical high schools.~~

~~(iv) The progress made towards achieving goals established in each school's application for classification as a regional career technical high school.~~

~~(C) It is the intent of the Legislature that the independent evaluator selected under this paragraph propose additional issues to be addressed in the study when it submits its proposal for the evaluation.~~

~~(2) Regional career technical high schools that choose to participate in the program pursuant to this article shall each pay to the State Department of Education ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for the costs of the independent study. If the cost of the study divided by the participating number of schools is less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), each participant that chooses to participate in the program shall pay an equal amount necessary to fully fund the study, but in no instance shall any school be required to pay more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).~~

~~(3) The State Department of Education shall report to the Governor and the Legislature by August 1, 2006, the findings and recommendations regarding implementation of this article.~~

~~SEC. 2.—The State Department of Education shall, exclusively using available federal funds identified by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, administer Article 5.5 (commencing with Section 52400) of Chapter 9 of Part 28 of the Education Code and shall provide technical assistance to high school districts, unified school districts, county offices of education and regional occupational centers and programs forming regional career technical high schools.~~